The VA is working to get the New GI BILL Chapt 33 Program on track. Emergency checks are only for the NEW Program applicants. If a soldier on 1606,1607, or Chapt 30 applies for the check they could cause future problems with their GI Bill account.

Transferability is also an issue.

Go to www.gibill.va.gov to determine eligibility for Chapt 33 and find out more information.

"Any member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and:

Has at least 6 years of service in the Armed Forces on the date of election and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election.

Has at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or selected reserve) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy (service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute, or

Is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2013. A service member is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active duty or 20 qualifying years of reserve service.

For those individuals eligible for retirement on August 1, 2009, no additional service is required.

For those individuals who have an approved retirement date after August 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, no additional service is required. For those individuals eligible for retirement after August 1, 2009, and before August 1, 2010, 1 year of additional service after approval of transfer is required.

For those individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2010, and before August 1, 2011, 2 years of additional service after approval of transfer are required.

For those individuals eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2011, and before August 1, 2012, 3 years of additional service after approval of transfer required."

***If you have an individual close to retirement they should be directed to the GI Bill website to determine eligibility for the transfer program prior to seperation. Before an election is made they should contact SPC Bloomgren the GI Bill Manager at 737-6212 or LTC Blasdell at 737-6729.

LTC Charlie Blasdell SDPE-ESO 2823 West Main Street Rapid City, SD 57702-8186

"Once you have learned to ask questions, you have learned how to learn and no one can keep you from learning whatever you want or need to know." ~~Postman